U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/531,189 Amendment Reply to Office Action dated October 3, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

[0024] Near to a side 11 of said exchanger [[1]] 10 and through a welding line 25, having a portion 32 parallel to said side 11 and a portion 33 perpendicular to it, between said walls 27 and 28 a second chamber 19 is also defined, separated fluid-tight from said first chamber 18.

Please amend paragraph [0026] as follows:

[0026] Two box-shaped carters 20 and 22 are fixed to the wall 27 of each exchanger 10, extending perpendicularly to said side [[1]] 11 for the whole width of the respective exchanger 10.

Please amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] The carters 20 and 22 define with the wall 27 respective ducts 21 and 23, in fluid communication, on one side, with said second chamber [[18]] 19 through openings 36 and 37, formed in the wall 27 and, on the other side, with the outside of the exchanger 10, and therefore with the catalytic bed (L) in which said exchanger 10 is immersed, through a plurality of holes 26, formed in the carters themselves.

Please amend paragraph [0037] as follows:

[0037] Exiting from the plurality of exchangers 10, the reactants thus preheated are collected by the collector [[20]] 17, which conveys them to the lower end of the central duct 24. Exiting from the upper end of said duct 24, the preheated reactants are distributed above the catalytic bed (L), crossing which they start off the desired highly exothermic oxidation reaction.

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

[0038] A second part of said flow of reactants, or control flow, is divided between all the chambers 18 of the plurality of exchangers 10, from each of which it is fed to the respective pairs of distribution-suppliers [[19,20]] 12.

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Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:

[0039] As described above, said distribution-suppliers [[19,20]] 12 are positioned in the catalytic mass of the bed (L), at heights strictly corresponding to the stages of the reaction taking place in correspondence of which it is foreseen to control the concentration and temperature of the reactants.